

2006

## The Compact, Issue 11, December, 2006

DIT: Students' Union

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# the compact



11

DECEMBER 2006

dit students' union



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## Irish Independent Compact.



# the compact

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*Season's  
Greetings*

## EDITORIAL



IT'S HARD TO THINK of a politician who divides people in the same way as Michael McDowell. Minister for Justice, leader of the Progressive Democrats, Tánaiste and one of the smartest men in Leinster House, McDowell has certainly come a long way. Kevin Byrne met with him in an exclusive Compact interview, and found out his views on Bertie Ahern, the War on Terror, and also why Homer Simpson inspires him.

The DIT Fashion Show took place last week, and was just as good as the months of promotion had promised. Laura Jackson was backstage and at rehearsals to capture the panic and excitement of the big night, with our photographer Deirdre Keaney there to capture the pretty girls too.

This has been some month for social events around college – we've got photos from the Red Soc Red Neck Rodeo, and of course Tradfest. Most of DIT seemed to have been there to catch the Saw Doctors and the Fureys, and judging by our photos, it was a quality night. We've got a report on pages 8 – 9, and if you were there, see if you made it to our back pages.

We've grabbed Five Minutes With the boys from Red Soc, and we have a detailed report from DIT's hurling match against NUIG.

And what with it being Christmas (sort of), we decided we couldn't ignore the festive season altogether. We've got a guide to buying pressies for your friends, and two student heroes, including an interview with Rolf Harris. That's got nothing to do with Christmas really, but it's a lovely friendly bloke with a white beard, and that's as good as you'll get in the first week of December I'm afraid.

Merry Christmas and all that.

Neil



Hi Friends,

AS THIS IS MY FIRST editorial message of the year, I hope you all had a great first semester. I hope things are looking bright both in your academic and student life. If that's not the case make sure you pick that phone up and call me, that's what you pay me for.

Speaking of academic life, it's hard to forget that your first set of exams is right after the holidays. Hopefully you have all received your timetables and prepared yourselves for the exams. Make sure that you familiarise yourselves with the new regulation in light of modularisation. Keep your eyes open for the Will You Kick

Assessment campaign starting soon. For lots of helpful advice make sure you check the website on [www.ditsu.ie/examstuff](http://www.ditsu.ie/examstuff).

I know that some of you benefitted from the Well Fair campaign with all the free fruit and freebies distributed. Now you need to make sure you check out the next one kicking off January 29 intended towards mental health issues.

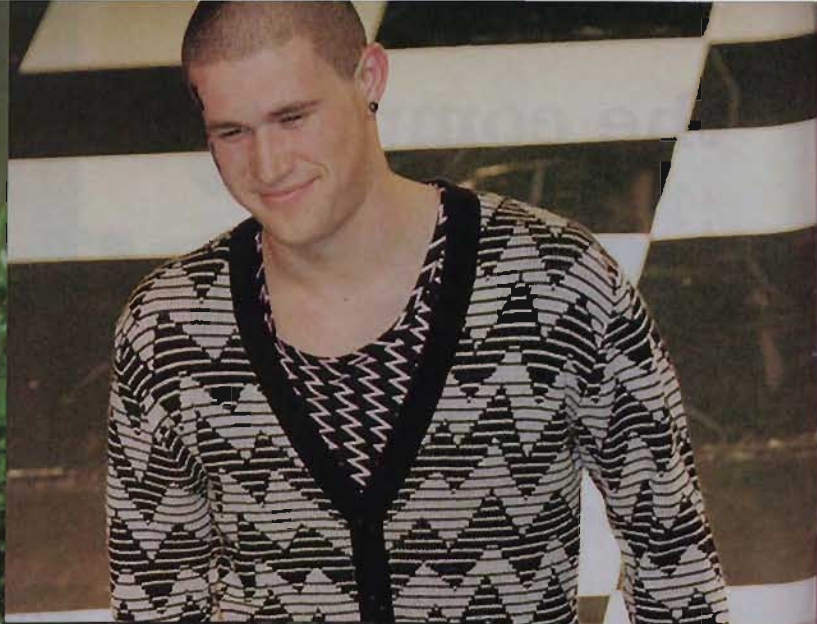
World Aids Day took place just last week and brought us together with APA (Aids Partnership Africa) for a bit of charity work. If you missed us, it's still a great idea to donate a bit of cash to them in the spirit of Christmas. Check out the Health Centres as well for STI information and testing.

Finally, let me just wish you a happy and jolly Christmas this year. Hope you have the best of times with your families. But do take it easy on those alcoholic beverages - you do need your liver to last you at least for another fifty years!  
Sal E No Mobarak!  
(Happy New Year in Persian)  
Hamid  
VP Academic & Student Affairs

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# FASHION SHOW DRAWS FULL HOUSE

REPORT

LAURA JACKSON

The fact that this was the first year that tickets to the DIT Fashion Show sold out indicates how successful it was. The theme was 'Through the Looking Glass', or to put it another way, Alice In Wonderland meets A Nightmare Before Christmas.

This is the fourth year of the event, and it has continued to improve each year. 2006 was a glamorous, glitzy, sexy affair with an array of beautiful models, elegant ballerinas, breathtaking break dancers and very talented student designers.

300 DIT students were involved in this year's show, with Vicar Street packed literally to capacity (and probably a bit beyond) with people eager to catch the show. The organisers Louise Conlon and Kate McDonald, as well as head stylist Laura Daly, have been involved with the show for the past four years. So they know how to make it work, and proved that.

For the first year ever, the show was in collaboration with A Wear, one of Ireland's leading female high street shops. The store has secured a three year contract with the show and supplied many of the designs on show. They've also launched the DIT A Wear Student Design award, a hotly contested prize. Over 120 applicants from colleges all over Ireland applied to take part in the competition, but only 18 of these got to showcase their talent on the night.

The unanimous winner of the competition was Avril Smyth. Her impressive designs were sexy, understated and classy and just the type of outfits you would see on the rack at a ware. A delighted Avril was awarded a three month summer work placement in A Wear's buying office as well as a €2,000 cash prize and a fabulous Waterford Crystal engraved trophy, presented by the fashion retailer's MD Anne Marie Flood.

Elegant ballet dancers drew us into the show before stunning head model Jane Wilde shimmied down the floor. There was an outfit on show to suit the tastes of everyone in the audience and from exaggerated hairstyles to bold clashing colours, we were taken on a magical journey through Wonderland.

As well as A Wear and the student designer showcases, there was a host of other stores taking part in the show, including Miss

Selfridge, Jack&Jones, Lara, BT2, French Connection, Louis Copeland, Wicked Frills and The Loft Market.

The work put into the show was certainly worth it for models, Eliza McLoughlin and William Hempenstall as they both were awarded contracts with Morgan Agency as a result.

This years, exciting, breathtaking, jaw dropping DIT Fashion Show was certainly a night to remember.



## Campus 2006/07

### Student Return Fares From Dublin



Limerick	- €15.00
Cork	- €12.00
Galway	- €17.50
Waterford	- €12.00
Athlone	- €14.00
Sligo	- €21.00
Donegal	- €23.00
Balina	- €21.00
Clonmel	- €14.50
Belfast	- €15.00
Rosslare	- €19.00

Prices correct at time of print.

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[www.buseireann.ie/student](http://www.buseireann.ie/student)



# CLASS REP CONVENOR REPORTS



**Ciaran Nevin**  
Convenor for Bolton Street

All in all it's been hectic around Bolton St. but looking back the result has been worth all the work, and as usual we're setting the standard for the rest of DIT.

A combination of great volunteers and staff, as well as students who are always up for a bit of entertainment, has meant that the 100 year old foundations of Bolton St. have been well tested with numerous events.

We've seen: Freshers Week, waxing for charity, iron stomach competitions, WellFair Week, Clubs and Socs Week not to mention the brilliant atmosphere over Halloween. The majority of Class Reps have been elected, and I would urge any reader who has not got a Class Rep to visit their local SU office.

Almost all of our councillor positions have been filled and the six part time officer positions are also filled, meaning democracy is as strong as ever and there is a great team to ensure that Bolton St. keeps out-doing itself and retains its position as the place to be.

While many of our formal positions have been filled, your union needs your help in whatever way you can, and with Christmas in college just around the corner your ideas and help are needed more than ever.

convenor@bst.ditsu.ie



**Ita McMahon**  
Convener for Aungier Sreet

Hey there everyone! If you haven't already seen our mugs around college beware because this is where the fun begins! For those of you who are interested, there are a few particular issues that I have been working on so far this year.

First of all, the library has been a concern of mine for quite a while and I've been having a good nag at the library committee in the hope of getting longer opening hours. So far the outcome has been quite positive but I still need all the support I can get from you guys so if you're interested please e-mail me with the hours you would prefer the library to be open.

I have just been appointed to the library committee so you can be sure your opinions will be heard!

I'm proud to say there's only a few classes without a rep so if that's you, come see me and we'll sort you out with an election. I've had a meeting with Campbell Catering recently, during which many important issues were raised about the services they provide or lack thereof, as the case may be, and I'm awaiting feedback within the next week.

For all you messy brats, watch out because the staff is threatening to never clean the Students' Union (around the pool tables and chairs downstairs) ever again. So clean up your rubbish or else be content with wallowing in it!

convenor@ast.ditsu.ie



**Alastair Graham**  
Convenor for Kevin Street

Well folks, I'm sitting writing this in late November, but I have to mention the Tache for Cash campaign.

All through November, people everywhere (though not on campus it seems) sported dodgy facial hair for the ISPC. In the spirit of solidarity, I'm joining the party late, and for the next month pledge to have dodgy facial fuzz, so come up to me and donate some money, it's all for a good cause!

Things are getting quite busy here in Kevin Street, with the WellFair campaign going well I suppose and Class Rep meetings galore happening. Elections to Governing Council were completed this month. Participation has been great this year, and it's not too late to get involved with the Students' Union, as Christmas is fast approaching, and we will need volunteers for the week of events we have planned.

Can you be an elf, a reindeer, or maybe Santa himself? Don't want to dress up, but want to be involved? Drop me an email at the address below, or call up to the office - I'm here a lot you know!

So finally, there's only one question to ask you... is the style more Garth Brooks, or the Edge? I ain't goin down till the sun comes up...

convenor@kst.ditsu.ie



**Conleth Stanley**  
Convenor for Rathmines

The academic year started off with a bang here in Rathmines. Work, work, work may be the ethos of what student life is supposed to be, but we all know that students only want to play, play, play!

Life here has been hectic to say the least. All our social events have been squeezed in between academic and performance related deadlines - even as I write this I'm caught between rehearsals for the College of Music Rush Hour Opera tonight and trying to get to all the relevant classes today with essay deadlines imminent.

Student Recruitment has been traditionally slow, as it has been for many a year in Rathmines. But on this occasion I believe I have a network of support from each of the years and courses studying here, with our common goal to make student life as enjoyable as possible.

The Students' Union social life has been slow too here this year, but I aim to get more going after Christmas, as the main issues this year so far have all been academic. We're all up to our eyes, there's more structures to consider, and we're trying to get the best out of all the opportunities and facilities that are available. Hopefully in the future I'll have something more tangible and exciting to report.

convenor@ditsu.ie





**Rebecca O'Neill**  
Convenor for Mountjoy Square

Hey all, I've had a bit of a mad year so far! I've held a good few Class Rep Meetings at this point now, getting my part-time officers and Governing Councillors elected. I'm currently working with my part-time officers getting our first LPIT together and doing

some brainstorming for the plan of work. One of our main plans for the year is to get Art and Design Week back to its former glory and to make it an event to rival the likes of Rainbow Week, any of the Society Balls or even TradFest! If you're interested drop me an email or find me in the office 'down in the union' in the Square-we'd love to hear

from you. Remember I'm here for your benefit so if you have any ideas to make things better, let me know.

convenor@msq.ditsu.ie



**Nicholas Fitzgerald**  
Convenor for Cathal Brugha St.

How are ya? I'm working on getting rid of the antique coke machine down in the Students' Union, replacing the retired/re-tarded photocopier and sorting out a bunch of IT issues. I am striving to get a third photo-

copier in the library, as I have a photocopying fetish... and I suppose the students can use it too. This is one for the chefs or anyone that has to be in a kitchen: coloured uniforms to be accepted in class. And the big one for the general population of the Brugha... is super duper, fancy, skinny TVs to be erected (hehe)

in the Cafeteria area. If you have any questions or problems give us a shout, otherwise Ill just be sitting down in my office like a spare fool. Talk-to-ya-later!

convenor@cbst.ditsu.ie

## DIT APPOINTS STUDENT OMBUDSMAN

DIT BECAME only the second college in the country to appoint a Student Ombudsman recently, with Dr. Philip Cohen taking up the role that is, in his words, "the voice of the students."

"I'm the last port of call and I'm the court of last resort," he says. "I'm here for when all other avenues have been exhausted, I'm there to help, and for the students to turn to."

"Mostly I would see students being referred to me by the Students' Union, or by the counselling service, or lecturers - by anyone really. I'm not the place where people start. If someone has a problem with an appeal against an exam result, or a grievance against a particular lecturer, or a general grievance against DIT; I'm not the place to start."

Philip has worked in universities in the UK for 20 years, and took up his current role as Head of Library Services in DIT two years ago. He outlines some of his main areas of responsibility as general assessment regulations, student regulations, the student

charter and the general duty of care that DIT has towards its students. And he thinks that the main challenge of his work may lie in a balancing his responsibilities to students with his responsibility of fairness to academics.

"The main difficulties of the job are trying to keep everybody happy. It's a narrow line I walk because I am there as the Student Ombudsman, my primary responsibility there is to the students."

"I have to be seen by the students as being effective," he continues, "but also I have to be seen by DIT academics and other staff as being impartial and someone who doesn't have a personal axe to grind."

If you have a problem you think Philip can help with, he recommends first contacting the Students' Union. But if they refer you to him, he will investigate the problem and make recommendations within 14 days. He has direct access to both directors of faculties and DIT President Brian Norton, who Philip can contact if he feels his recommendations have not been adhered to by DIT staff.



**INTERNATIONAL SPAR STORE: 1-4 Lower Camden Street, Dublin 2**

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**F**AIR ENOUGH IT WASN'T Woodstock, but it was a great night. Tradfest 2006 opened with a set from Pigtown Fling, kicking off the show in style. The Fureys and Davey Arthur took to the stage next, the last few latecomers arrived and Tradfest 2006 was truly underway. With well over a 1000 tickets sold, the venue was packed, and the atmosphere in Vicar Street was unreal.

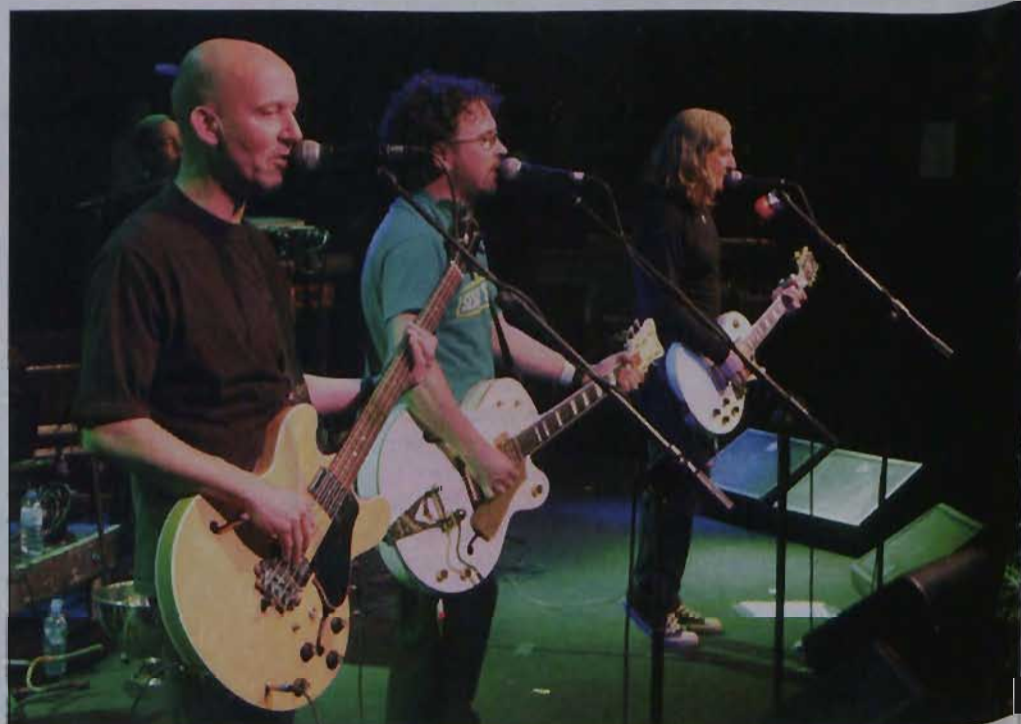
With the crowd well and truly warmed up, it was time for the headline act. Everyone from the bars swarmed into the stage area, and The Saw Doctors were on. With hundreds of people packed in front of the stage and the party in full swing, we were on a roll.

With some harmless crowd surfing, and large amounts of girls, and some guys on shoulders, everyone really got into the night. Playing classics like Red Cortina and N17, the headliners kept the crowd entertained, and everyone was caught up in the night when tragedy struck.

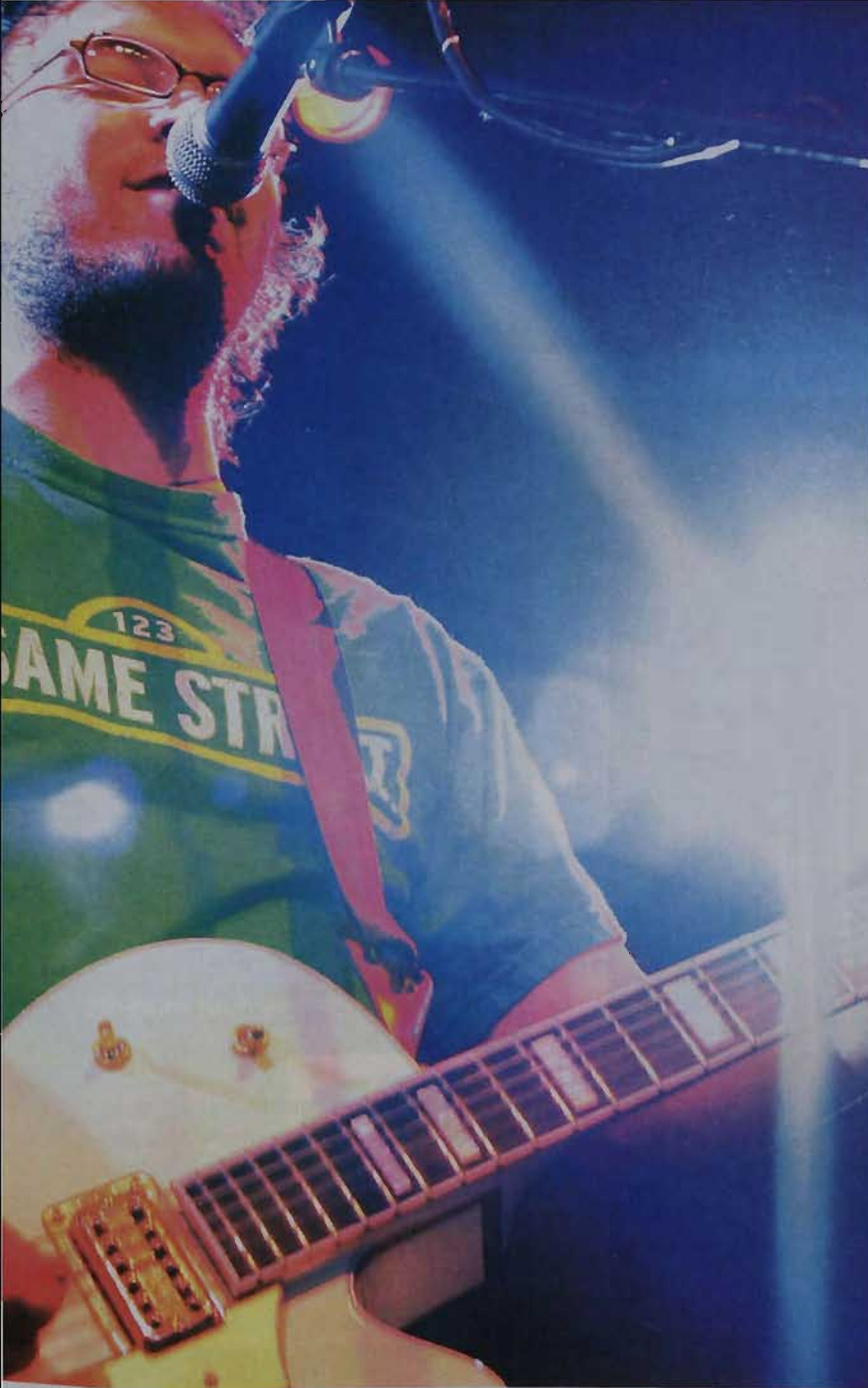
The all-knowing Safety Officer of Vicar Street pulled the band off stage. While at first we were promised that if the crowd settled down, they would return, apparently a few hundred people standing around quietly sipping the last pints of the night (as they had closed the bar without warning us), wasn't enough to convince the staff of Vicar Street that we could behave. A member of staff from the venue took the stage to inform us that it was time to go home, telling us it was for 'our own safety'. So the students of DIT filed out of the venue into the cold, cold night, but only after a sit-in protest and a few chants of 'one more tune'.

Despite this it was a great night, and future Tradfests have a lot to live up to.

GRAHAM HAYES  
PHOTOS: JAMIE HOGAN









*"Cash tills ring, Are you listening, In the shop  
Folks are buying A whole lot of crap, We're  
happy tonight, Selling in a winter wonderland"*

FEATURE  
MAURA FAY



**T**HAT'S THE CAROL you can expect to hear retailers across the country joyfully singing this Christmas. A survey by accountancy firm Deloitte has predicted that the average Irish household will spend a whopping €1,399 during the Christmas period, which makes us the biggest festive spenders in Europe. Only the UK (€1,057) and Spain (€904) come close. We even out do the Americans, those masters of 'Happy Holidays' who spend an average of €1,299 per household.

Surprisingly, with all that money to spend, only 5% of Irish people surveyed said that they really enjoyed shopping at this time of year citing 'crowded shopping centres, the lack of product availability, and shortage of innovative gift ideas' as turn-offs. It's no shock that 47% said they plan to do more of their Christmas shopping online this year than they did in 2005.

So in order to avoid women using buggies as battering rams, children screaming because they've been dragged around the shops for the last three hours, and men who take up 20 minutes of the shop assistant's time asking about a blender's functions, here's your no-nonsense guide to buying online:

#### TIPS:

- Buy early. Deliver times can vary because of An Post's increased workload at Christmas – and be careful about ordering from abroad.
- Buy online from reputable sites. If buying from eBay alone, check the seller's rating.
- If you don't have a credit card, you can get a 3M prepaid voucher card – of a value of up to €500. The only point is that there's a 6% charge on every voucher you purchase.

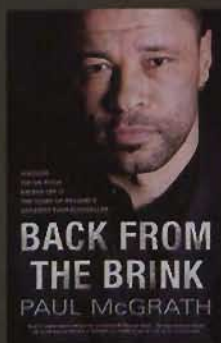


## Sports nut

They live, breath, eat and sleep Sky Sports. Plus they think Eamon Dunphy is God.

### Small budget:

Voted William Hill Irish Sports Book of the Year, Paul McGrath's autobiography entitled *Back from the Brink* is a must read for any follower of Irish soccer. It details his professional football career stretching over 14 years, as well as the turmoil in his personal life: a childhood in Dublin orphanages, two marriage break-ups, and alcoholism. A tough but rewarding read.



Cost €19.99

[www.buy4now.ie/Eason](http://www.buy4now.ie/Eason)

### Medium budget:

With the Six Nations and Rugby World Cup both fast approaching, and with Ireland actually having a chance of winning some silverware, no sports nut can afford to go without the Irish rugby jersey. The Canterbury Ireland Home '06 Rugby Jersey retails from Elverys online store at €77 and comes in sizes Small to XX-Large. Postage is €5.50.



[www.buy4now.ie/elverys](http://www.buy4now.ie/elverys)

### Big budget:

For all those who love the thrill of speed and danger, this is the gift of a lifetime. Mondello Park offers an introductory Clubman Course for €249 for the Michael Schumacher wannabe in your life. The course includes 10 timed laps in a single seater, after two formations laps behind a pace car, intended to acclimatise you to the unique environment of your racing car. Chucked in too is a detailed safety briefing, in-car tuition with an instructor, and a certificate and computerised lap times.



[www.mondello.ie](http://www.mondello.ie)

## Environmentalist

They'd scorn the thought of wrapping paper because it probably came from a tree in a South American rain forest.

### Small budget:

This compilation CD features nine songs written specially for the album by Dave Raghty, Emm Gryner, Paul Noonan, Glen Hansard, Ollie Cole, Damien Rice, The Thrills and Matt Lunson. The lead vocals on the tracks are performed by Lisa Hannigan, Nina Persson, Gary Lightbody, Gemma Hayes, Glen Hansard, Josh Ritter, Conor Deasy and Neil Hannon. Proceeds are in aid of Oxfam's Make Trade Fair campaign.



Cost €19.99

[www.roadrecs.com](http://www.roadrecs.com)

### Medium budget:

Countries in East Africa such as Somalia and Kenya have recently experienced a severe drought. Trócaire is working from an East Africa Regional Office in Nairobi, Kenya. You can help with the gift of two goats. According to Trócaire, goats are resilient and breed easily which means they can be sold to help sustain the needs of a family. They also provide an excellent source of nutrition through their milk, and can be a lifeline for struggling families.



Cost €40.00.

[www.trocaire.org/globalgift](http://www.trocaire.org/globalgift)

### Big budget:

World Vision Ireland offers 'an alternative gift catalogue.' For €215 you can provide a class of 25 children with all the materials they need, including textbooks, exercise books, pens and pencils. Guaranteed to have you feeling good well into the New Year.



[www.worldvision.ie](http://www.worldvision.ie)

## Techno geek

If it's small, multi-functional and has a large memory, they want it.

### Small budget:

Feed their iPod with an iTunes Music card. A prepaid card worth €15 allows them to choose from millions of songs, music videos and exclusive tracks.



[www.apple.com/itunes](http://www.apple.com/itunes)

### Medium budget:

What's more annoying than waiting for a lift in the pouring rain and suddenly your battery mobile goes dead, leaving you stranded? Well fear no more because the PowerMonkey mobile phone charger is the answer to your needs. You simply use the included mains



adaptor to fully charge the PowerMonkey and you will get up to 96 hours standby on your mobile phone, 40 hours on your iPod, 6 hours on your Sony PSP, 2 full charges on your PDA plus its original charge and up to 1600 pictures on your digital camera. The PowerMonkey will even hold its charge without leakage for up to a year.

Cost €49.99.

[www.buy4now.ie/discountelectrical](http://www.buy4now.ie/discountelectrical)

### Big budget:

The Nintendo Wii is the latest phenomenon in computer gaming. Its unique 'motion sensing' technology detects three axes of movement, the ergonomic controller plays like the conventional movements you make everyday. It can be your sword in one game and your steering wheel in the next. They go on sale from World of Wonder's website on December 8 and demand is sure to be big.



1001 02/06/09



# 5 MINUTES WITH:

Simon, Aido and John  
RedSoc Committee



# REDSOC



## Favourite thing about DIT?

Simon: The people.

Aido: Definitely.

Simon: If you go to the pub you could be talking to someone from your class, you could be talking to someone you've never met before. There's no boundaries.

## Least favourite thing about DIT?

Simon: People aren't as proud of studying here as they are at other colleges.

Aido: I think definitely it's getting better in the past few years though, people are putting down DIT first on the CAO. We're not happy about the lack of an on-campus pub as well.

Simon: Yeah people don't have to drink in a pub, but the atmosphere is just better.

## First job?

Simon: I was a runner for a retail store. The best part of it was the store was called Penthouse, so I used to be able to say I work for Penthouse.

Aido: I did four years at Poundworld. I was only fourteen, but it was good craic.

## Favourite season and why?

Aido: Well November's the best month.

Simon: Yeah, everything happens. Even at the end you should be sad 'cause the best month's over, but then there's Christmas!

## Favourite album of all time?

Aido: I know you're not supposed to pick a best of, but Jimi Hendrix's Best Of.

Simon: 2 Many Djs.

## What song's guaranteed to get you on

12

## the dancefloor?

Aido: There's a whole list...

Simon: Prodigy, Riverdance, Swamp Thing by The Grid...

Aido: I Want You Back by the Jacksons... Cotton Eye Joe has to be up there too.

## What luxury would you bring to a desert island?

Aido: Suppose I'm not allowed bring a boat am I?

Simon: Suncream!

## What was your favourite book as a child?

Aido: The Hobbit, definitely.

Simon: Do you remember that one about the guy with the fungus or something, Fergus the Fungus or something...

## What did you want to be when you were growing up?

Simon: A vet. I used to love that Rolf Harris show.

Aido: Yeah, I wanted to be a vet too.

Simon: Then I found out the points - good luck!

## If your house was on fire, what would you save?

(cue lots of thought)

Aido: Myself. Or my mum's guitar, it's like 30 years old.

Simon: If my dog was still alive I'd bring him, but he's dead so I'll leave him there.

## What period of history would you have liked to live in?

Simon: Can you say the future?

(cue much laughter)

Simon: Just to see what it's like. No, I like now.

Aido: What was that time with Cowboys and Indians? The Wild West, yeah I'd like to have lived then.

## What three people would Red Soc invite first to a party?

Aido: Tommy Tiernan.

Simon: He'd tell the jokes.

Aido: Who'd provide the eye candy?

Simon: Eva Longoria. No, Angelina Jolie.

Aido: Yeah we'd bring her. And who last? (thoughtful silence)

Aido: Anita Conway from the Societies Office.

(At this stage Red Soc PRO John joins us)

## Dogs or cats?

All: Dogs.

Aido: I want a big fluffy one like the Dulux dog, but I'm not allowed get one.

## What's your guilty pleasure?

Simon: Kebabs. Abrakebabra, three o'clock in the morning.

Aido: Not showering, can I say that?

## Least favourite sport?

Simon: Cricket.

John: Yeah, cricket.

(Aido mulls it over)

Aido: Yeah cricket.

## Favourite magazine or newspaper?

Simon: InDublin.

## Best thing about living in Dublin?

Simon: It's small, everyone knows each other.

## Worst thing about living in Dublin?

Simon: Traffic.

Aido: Traffic.

John: Traffic.

Aido: The weather sometimes as well.

Simon: Lack of variety too.

## Sum up DIT in three words.

All: Let's get mashed.



# D4 Blues



RANDOM RANTING

CIARÁN NEVIN

**I**F YOU HAPPEN TO BE from south Dublin and suffer from self esteem issues, which coming from south Dublin is quite unlikely, it's probably best that you read no further. However if you are interested in the snobby, high faluting "up their own arse" culture that can be found in every Dublin address divisible by 2 with the exception of Dublin 24 (Tallaght), you should enjoy this insight into The D4 Blues...so let's begin.

Before I filled out my CAO I had only ever heard of two colleges in Dublin: UCD and Trinity. Never was I so glad to let ignorance rule my heart and apply for a course in a college that I had never known existed: DIT. I always knew that there was a rivalry between the north and south of our capital city but I believed that it was similar to the rivalry between Meath and Westmeath which is, at best, trivial. But soon after I started college I realised that God knew what he was doing when he put the Liffey where he did. So did Martin Cullen when he decided against joining up the Luas lines.

Up until a couple of hundred years ago, the northside was the fashionable part of the city, and

with areas like Leopardstown being reserved for lepers and Donnybrook for bareknuckle fighting, it's not hard to see why. So what brought about the change? A bad bastard from Kildare, that's what! The Earl of Kildare moved to the southside and when asked why he replied; "Where I go, fashion follows me". And right enough he was, the southside is now home to most of the Government buildings including Dáil Éireann, although ironically Áras an Uachtaráin is on the north side. Even if its postal address is Dublin 8.

The real Dublin is only present north of the river. They have retained their distinct accents and culture, and are often to be seen sporting a Dublin GAA jersey, hideous as that may be. Cross O'Connell Bridge however and it's a different story. They have invented an accent of their own which is probably a by-product of talking through their hole. They're not Dubs, they're Leinster fans who drop their kids to school in their Terenure tractors (Range Rovers) and drink pints of "Ken". As a man from the country it is quite easy for me to be impartial about Dubs, but I'm not going to be because D4 heads give my balls a headache.

In DIT we are blessed that there are so few around the place with the exception of Aungier St...and what would you be dragging yourself down there for? Trad-Fest was just a few weeks ago and thankfully it was a night free of their southside moaning and stupid questions like "The Saw Doctors - are they like that group from like yonks ago?"

It was mainly fellow culchies there, but we were joined by a large number of typically well-cultured north-siders, up for a bit of craic. This is possibly one of the reasons that TradFest is always the best college night of the year.

I don't hate southsiders, I know some decent people from there, and generally they feel the same way as me. But you all know the sort I'm on about, they only partay in certain nightclubs, they have double barrel names, and usually are the most mind-numbing people that you will encounter.

Is there a solution? I don't think so. Carbon taxes might put a stop to the Range Rovers, smaller credit cards might blow the double barrel out of action, and turning private schools into halting sites might help them lose those ridiculous accents. Sadly though it will not remove that anal gene that is present in every bloody one of them. We can't even set about researching into that troublesome gene because every fucking doctor and scientist in the country is somehow caught up in the D4 sickness as well.

So the only thing I can say is to carry on regardless and let them know how annoying they are. But before I go, a message for the D4 heads I might have upset: if you were offended by anything in this article why don't you get daddy to buy you a nice Golf GTI like. Or go on a skiing holiday; just be careful you don't injure yourself, we would like toooooootally hate to see that happen.

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# *Twas The Night Before Christmas*

**THE LIGHTS ARE TWINKLING PRETTILY ON GRAFTON STREET AND MARIAH CAREY'S SUGARY VOICE CAN BE HEARD IN ALMOST EVERY STORE, WHICH CAN MEAN ONLY ONE THING – THE CHRISTMAS PARTY SEASON IS HERE.**

**T**HIS WINTER, it's about the fusion of colour and playing with fabrics. Black is a staple yet again. As always it's the most slimming of colours, perfect for the month that's in it with all the mince pies and wine we'll be consuming! Use it as a canvas but add a dash of splendour and sparkle to your ensemble with touches of red, gold or silver.

There are a lot of great finishes lining our rails too from glittery sheens to sequins, satins and silks. Use them to lift plain

fabrics but make sure to do it in moderation. Wearing too much bling will kill any look, so make sure to approach those glitter laden aisles with caution. Team sequined scarves with satin fabrics or wear a sparkly top or dress with a silk tie. Less is more.

Accessories can play a big part in transforming an outfit especially when black is centre stage. Use them to introduce colour from pretty red hair bands to sparkly belts, satin ties and sequined clutches. Bows are also great for adding a feminine touch and



FASHION  
PAMELA MAHON

can be introduced in a variety of ways: wear them in your hair, on your shoes, as a scarf or even around your waist.

Gilt is also back in the frame this December. Gold accessories are a must adding just the right amount of bling. Everywhere from Topshop and Urban Outfitters to River Island and Faith are dazzling us with their choice of golden shoes and accessories. There are some great clutches too, the perfect accompaniment for an evening on the tiles and they'll squeeze in all the necessities, even your much coveted red lippy!

Add the finishing touch to your festive creations with a pair of killer heels. Yes, this is the time of year when the dance floors are in full swing but sadly there isn't a flat sole in sight. Heels are huge this season, the bigger the better. And more often than not they're frosted in glitter or shimmering in all their sequined glory. So whether you're crawling out of the pubs in Temple Bar or twirling under the spotlights in fancy bar, make sure you sparkle and shine!





**MAIN IMAGE:**

Black sparkly dress, Urban Outfitters; skinny jeans, Topshop; shoes, Schuh; clutch purse, Penneys; black satin scarf, Penneys; Bracelets, see Miss Selfridge and A-wear for similar.

**ABOVE:**

Red dress, for similar see Miss Selfridge; black belt, for similar see A-wear; black waistcoat, for similar see River Island; beads, Shoko; shoes, Schuh; bag, Wild Child.

**MODEL:** Niamh McGovern.

**LEFT:**

Gold sequin dress, Penneys; black footless tights, Topshop; black jacket, for similar see H&M; black sparkly shoes, Shoe Rack; bracelets, Shoko; satin tie, for similar see Ad Hoc; hairband, Claire's Accessories.

**FACING PAGE:**

Black tea-dress, Topshop; accessories, Penneys.





## Does Cullen actually care about Transport?

STUDENT INSIGHT  
KEVIN BYRNE

**NEXT TIME YOU'RE GOING HOME FROM COLLEGE ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT, CRAMPED INTO A TINY SEAT ON A STUFFY BUS WITH YOUR KNEES PAINFULLY JAMMED IN, AND THE TRAFFIC GOING NOWHERE FAST – SPARE A THOUGHT FOR OUR HUMBLE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT MARTIN CULLEN.**



## Students should drink less.

STUDENT INSIGHT  
SASCHA O'TOOLE

**"AH, COME ON, LET'S GET YOU LOCKED!" IF ONLY MY MOTHER COULD HEAR THIS, I THOUGHT. I WAS IN MY FIRST WEEK OF COLLEGE, AND THE REBELLIOUSNESS OF IT ALL WAS CONSUMING ME. COMING FROM A STRICT HOME, IMAGINE MY DELIGHT TO NOW BE IN A DIFFERENT COUNTY TO MY PARENTS AND ABLE TO DO WHAT I WANT.**



## Young drivers have to pay more insurance.

STUDENT INSIGHT  
YUVRAJ PARIHAR

**A LOT OF YOU READING THIS COLUMN ARE DRIVERS. AND A LOT OF YOU WHINE ABOUT YOUR INSURANCE, AND A LOT OF YOU WHO DON'T DRIVE NOW WILL PROBABLY END UP WHINING ABOUT INSURANCE AT SOME STAGE. IT'S A LEGAL REQUIREMENT FOR A DRIVER TO BE INSURED AND THERE'S REALLY NO ESCAPING THAT TRUTH.**



He cruises to work in his spacious ministerial car to make decisions on the public transport we endure every day. Cullen looks likely to grant yet another fare hike in the New Year, continuing the mistake of leaving commuters to foot the bill for our ailing but expensive public transport system. Unlike Michael Bloomberg and Ken Livingstone, Mayors of New York and London respectively, who actually use the public transport they control, Martin Cullen stays well clear of our Beirut standard public buses and trains.

He might be quick to point out from the comfort of his chauffeured Mercedes that you get value for your money. And value for money is one of the few things consistent in the Government's policy on public transport: they always go for the cheaper option, like the Luas. Granted the situation is better with the Luas but it's a cheap solution to a severe problem. The Luas would be

Some would say that's what college is all about. Still, I have to wonder where my peers get the energy from. Getting totally smashed four days a week really does take it out of a body, yet it seems to be what is expected of us. When I started college, I wasn't a big drinker, and I'm still not.

Two pints and I'm off to Dionysus country. What surprises me is how much I stand out because of that. That I am actually embarrassed to have such a low alcohol tolerance is testimony to what the college scene is like today. Maybe as a generation we're trying to make up for the pioneering generations that have gone before us.

Staying out until dawn and sleeping until dusk is all great for a while, but eventually something is going to start suffering. I can still remember the days when I felt obliged to do at least two hours' work everyday, back when teachers

But still a lot of young drivers moan about the insurance companies who take it upon themselves to offer cover.

Companies have been charging young drivers ever increasing amounts of premiums, a trend likely to continue for the foreseeable future. The reason cited is the cornerstone of the entire insurance system: risk. Young drivers are viewed by insurance companies as more likely to have an accident than older people.

Now I'd love to be able to jump in here and go on a tirade about how this is so unfair and that the majority of young drivers are very responsible. But that simply isn't the case, the figures just don't support that view. In fact the stats are pretty damning in this case. Young people are involved in the vast majority of accidents in this country – you're

much more efficient and useful if it was a normal commuter train that either ran on a bridge or underground in the city centre and was integrated with the rest of the tiny rail network. Normal commuter trains also happen to be longer, larger, have higher capacity and are faster than a tram.

Right now the government's solution on public transport is to privatise it. Translation: "there's a big problem with public transport. We couldn't be bothered to fix it, so we're going to pass the problem on to someone else and that way you can't blame us."

Privatising public transport is an insane idea. Public transport is not only a strategic industry, but it is one that has a huge impact on our quality of life and the environment. Should we really put it in the hands of greedy businessmen who are only looking to make a profit?

and the Leaving Cert still loomed over me. These days, 2,500 words due in two days time means nothing if there's a crowd headed to the pub. Am I the only one who is worried by our growing determination to prove the Irish stereotype correct?

Most of the time, drunken nights out are great, because they very often result in fond memories that you and your fellow pub patrons will recall for years after – it's quite amazing how quickly inebriated people bond.

While the results are often positive, we have to face facts here. Alcohol changes people, and I'm not even talking about doing embarrassing things while drunk here.

Spending 'special time' with someone whose name you can't remember the next morning, let alone a week later, is only the tip of the iceberg.

seven times more likely to be killed on the road if you're between 17 and 24, especially if you're male.

Of course students (and I mean as a group, not individuals) barely have a leg to stand on with so many of them racing around in their modified cars with enough body kit to make Pamela Anderson's extensive plastic surgery look like nothing. But this is where the conundrum lies: so many youngsters actually are very good drivers. They're the kind of motorists who would balk at the idea of speeding on public roads, have no points on their license and follow the law to the letter.

I just can't help but wonder why they must be viewed by the insurance companies with the same kind of cynicism as the ones who quite frankly deserve to be booted off the road. And I do mean booted off for good. For every

A real solution would be to "borrow" an American idea and create regional transport authorities, such as the long-promised but long-delayed Dublin Transport Authority. This state-run company should control all of the Dublin Metropolitan Area's transport system and ensure all modes of public transport are integrated and work together – when it finally gets set up.

Heavy Government investment is needed to solve the public transport problem, no half-measures or cheaper options will do. And we don't need it in ten or twenty years time, we need it now. Of course, you can be rest assured that while you sit in your cramped bus or train that the people who make these decisions are the very people who don't use, and will never have to use, public transport.

Without wanting to get too heavy, there's violence, assault, arguments, accidents, and liver damage. We're at risk of all of these and more when we spend our Thursdays (and Fridays and Saturdays too) exploring the realms of drunkenness. Is it really worth it?

The problem isn't that we get drunk, but how often we do it. Waiting for special occasions like birthdays, Christmas, New Years, weddings and so on might be a better idea.

Think of the advantages: we save money, are most likely safer, and appreciate the experience so much more. Let's face it, if we keep this lifestyle up, we're bound to get bored eventually, and what then?

death caused on the road by some adrenaline junkie, there's a usually unseen family that has to suffer the loss and the pain of losing a loved one.

Guns don't kill people, people do. It's the same case with road safety. Cars don't kill people, people do. So maybe I am starting to see some sense in the way the insurance industry works as regards to youngsters. But it's better to judge individuals rather than groups.

Quite frankly the whole job would be a lot simpler if the Department of Transport did a better job at screening, and only handed out licences to people who actually deserve one. As opposed to those who make the roads so unbelievably dangerous.



**HOMER SIMPSON'S AN UNLIKELY ROLE MODEL FOR THE TÁNAISTE AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE MICHAEL MCDOWELL. BUT ASK THE LEADER OF THE PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS HAS HE EVER MADE MISTAKES IN POLITICS, AND IT'S SPRINGFIELD'S MOST FAMOUS SON HE TURNS TO FOR INSPIRATION. "WELL, I DON'T LIKE TO DWELL ON THEM. AS HOMER SIMPSON SAID, 'YOU CAN'T KEEP BLAMING YOURSELF, BLAME YOURSELF ONCE AND MOVE ON.'"**





## IN-DEPTH:

## MICHAEL MCDOWELL

INTERVIEW  
KEVIN BYRNE

**M**CDOWELL CAN CUT an imposing figure when you see him on television: intelligent, witty, a far cry from the stereotypical gombeen man image of Irish politics. In person though he comes across as refreshingly friendly and sincere, and as we shake hands, he says it's good to see me again, remembering that we've met briefly in the past.

It's 21 years since the current Tánaiste left Fine Gael to join Des O'Malley's fledgling Progressive Democrats, the party he has led since he replaced Mary Harney earlier this year. He says students have to vote for his party in the next election if they want to continue the success of the country. "If we make the wrong decision next summer, it will be the young people who will have to pick up the pieces of economic failure over 10 or 15 years. It will be their job prospects, their prosperity, and their way of life that would be adversely affected."

But the problem remains that young people just aren't interested in politics. In McDowell's opinion, that's the fault of the media in many cases. He says they tend to encourage "constantly converging politics, to try and get people to the same point and to eliminate difference and to criticise people who have a different view on issues."

He continues that if you favour low taxes, some media outlets try to discourage you from that point of view and try to push you to a different position all the time because "they don't like difference." McDowell's opinion is if politics isn't interesting to young people, then that has a lot to do with the "failure of political parties and political leaders to be willing to show the difference and to engage young people in particular in resolving those differences."

Most students looking for a reason to vote for the PDs are more likely to find it in McDowell's approach to third-level fees. "That would be a massive tax on investment in education, investment in self-development among young Irish people," he says. McDowell claims we would have a much higher opt-out of third level education if fees were actually re-introduced. In his words, it

would be "a big mistake."

Even if the PDs are elected into government again, as leader of a small party, McDowell will never be Taoiseach. This must frustrate a man of his obvious talent and ambition. "No, it doesn't," he answers, "because when I look at Bertie Ahern I see a great conciliator and I don't think people would point to me as instinctively a great conciliator. They would see me more as the activist and the person who is intent on taking the initiative and changing things rather than simply just arriving all the time at consensus. It doesn't frustrate me that Bertie Ahern is Taoiseach because I think he has huge talents as Taoiseach."

Despite this, he stands by his belief that Ahern was wrong to accept money from businessmen. "We said that at the time, Bertie Ahern was wrong to do that and we didn't agree with the fact that he did it." But he thinks this shouldn't make us forget Bertie's other achievements. "The people, I think, clearly understood that it would be totally disproportionate to say that because he made a mistake of judgement in the past and taken the wrong course that he should now bow out of politics. There are very few people in politics who haven't made mistakes in the past."

Asked what he does in his spare time, McDowell laughs that he doesn't get any spare time any more, although he spends as much time as he can at his house in Roscommon. "I love to get out in a lake on a boat, I love to go walking." He's fascinated by history programmes on TV, and it's not a great surprise to learn there's little fiction on his bookshelves. Instead he prefers biography and history.

But it's his views for the future, and not the past, that are really interesting. He sums up his hopes for Ireland in a few short sentences. "Ireland will be an all-island economy. That the two communities in Northern Ireland will be increasingly reconciled with each other. That the infrastructural deficits in Ireland will have been made up. That we'll have put in place a constantly growing economy delivering real prosperity to its citizens while at the

same time embracing all the necessary environmental change policy that are required to make our ongoing economic success environmentally sustainable."

On a global scale, Michael has some problems with the War on Terror. And not just the idea, but the words used too. He opposes the phrase 'War on Terror', saying it's a 'pointless phrase', but more than that says declaring war on terrorism is surrendering to it. "If you mobilise a society on a war footing against terror, you are in fact surrendering to the terrorists' agenda. You are altering the freedom of the society itself."

"So, whenever I hear those words used, particularly from North America, I profoundly disagree with it." He believes we use the phrase "Islamic terrorism" very carelessly, and he wonders how the West would respond if the tables were turned. "Imagine if any form of western terrorist activity was described as Christian terrorism, how offended we would be."

We meet at the Young PDs annual conference, with McDowell rushing to his next appointment as soon as we're done. There's no time for something to eat, or even a glass of water. It's one of the first party events since McDowell became leader, and since the crises surrounding Ahern left the FF-PD coalition facing its rockiest moments.

I asked McDowell does he feel that Fianna Fail takes a lot of credit for work the PDs do. "They're entitled to," he says honestly. "That's part of being a partner. For instance, if I'm increasing the amount of Gardai... Fianna Fail aren't excluded from the credit for that, merely because Mary Harney and myself took probably most of the key decisions."



# OUTSIDE THE BOX



**ROLF HARRIS HAS BEEN UP FOR SEVEN HOURS BY THE TIME HE TAKES MY LUNCHTIME CALL. HE'S BEEN TRAVELLING UP AND DOWN THE COUNTRY LATELY, WITH THE RESULT THAT THERE'S A MOUNTAIN OF CORRESPONDENCE FOR HIM TO GET THROUGH AFTER HE GETS OFF THE PHONE. AND HE'S 76. NO WONDER HE SOUNDS ABSOLUTELY SHATTERED.**

STUDENT HERO  
ROLF HARRIS

**I**T'S 53 YEARS SINCE a young Rolf arrived at Dover, keen to make his way in the land where his parents were from. "My parents met in Cardiff and they were childhood sweethearts, when they met they were only ten or eleven. And Dad went out to Australia many years later and my brother and I were born out there. But all my life the British Isles stood out to me as the hub of the universe"

Rolf had qualified as a teacher, but wasn't overly keen to spend the rest of his life in a classroom. Then he fell ill, seriously ill. "I was in hospital for a month and just slowly got better. And nobody knew what it was," he says. "I remember lying there in that bed and thinking if I ever get out of here, I want to pursue the painting, I don't want to be a schoolteacher."

That's what got him to Britain. He ran out of money after three months, and things were looking rough until he flicked on a kids TV show one day, and saw a cartoonist doodling - badly. "I thought if I can't do better than that, I can't do anything," says Harris.

He embraced British culture after that, so much so that he doesn't even have a home in his native Australia. And asked if he misses anything about life Down Under, he struggles to think of something, before remembering the landscape. "I miss The Bush. I miss just being able to go out in the Australian Bush, which seems to have a chaos that seems to reflect itself in all Australians."

"When we came to Europe, travelling around

Europe, you see a forest in Germany and it looks like they've steam-rolled the lawns, every dead branch has been taken away, whereas in Australia you go out and it's total chaos."

Nature is something that's clearly important to Rolf, and not just because *Animal Hospital* was such a success in the 1990s. He's just recorded a song about the killing of seals in Canada. Called *Slaughter On The Ice*, it's been set to a rap beat, and can be downloaded on his MySpace page, with all proceeds going to animal protection charities.

That's not Rolf's only dalliance with technology. He's just put ringtones on his website that feature some of his most popular songs, but even though he plugs those when we speak, he's more keen to discuss the lack of action governments are taking to protect ocean life. "When will they ever get to learn about whales? And how intelligent whales are?"

Something else that was important to him was meeting the Queen. Rolf's been honoured by Liz a few times already, but last year he got to paint her portrait to mark 80 years of the BBC. "That was quite amazing," he admits. "There were nerves beforehand as you can probably guess."

"We had to be there by 11 in the morning for the sitting because we had to be through the front entrance before the changing of the guard, and I was set up with the easel and the canvas by 11.30 maximum, and the Queen was only coming at 2.30. So I had three hours to wait and worry. So it was like being on the starting line, waiting for the starter's pistol. It was quite scary."

But he says he found her "lovely", even though as far as he knows, she still hasn't seen the picture. "The last communication I had with her was when she left after the second sitting, and she said as she went out, 'it's a very friendly painting.'" That cheered Rolf up no end.

Rolf is a bit like royalty to lots of young people, as shown by his four performances at Glastonbury in recent years. "70,000 people," reflects Rolf, "and they were singing every word of every song, so much so that I couldn't hear myself sing. I finished singing *Sun Arise* and as the notes of the song died away I realised to my horror that I'd been in the wrong key throughout. The song was in E and I was singing in F Sharp."

Asked for some words of wisdom for young people, Rolf is full of them. "I would say the most important thing in life is to be yourself. Try and be true to yourself, and don't do things that in retrospect you would be embarrassed about. If you can be lucky enough to find the thing you love to do best in the world, then I think it's the recipe for happiness in life."





**L**ARRY GOGAN IS SUCH A LEGEND. Larry Gogan is such a legend that when his wife died, he received 1900 messages of condolence. Larry Gogan is such a legend that if RTE ever tried to get rid of him, it's fair to say that most people would never pay the licence fee again. Larry Gogan is such a legend that even Podge and Rodge were nice to him.

## GOGAN'S HEROES

STUDENT HERO  
LARRY GOGAN

Of course in Larry's words, he's far from a legend. Ask him what the secret of his success is, and this is his answer: "I'm always delighted to be doing what I'm doing, and lucky to be doing it too. Maybe it's not a great ambition to have... but all my life I wanted to be a DJ."

"I think I've always been an optimistic person," he continues, "I take life as it comes." And he says it's come pretty handily so far. "I've had a very happy life, a happy childhood, a happy marriage – until (his wife) Florrie died, that was it." Not that Larry didn't have to work hard to get where he is.

"I tried for a long, long time to get in. And I don't know if it's easier these days, but there's certainly more stations. Back then it was just RTE," he says. Back then was the late 60s and early 70s, when Larry's dream of being a DJ finally became a reality with a slot on the then-new 2FM. It's a job he's held onto despite changing schedules, music tastes and RTE management. And he thinks one of the reasons why is that he keeps in touch with what's going on in the charts.

"It's not brain surgery, it's not rocket science, but still you have to get it right. It's not hard, it's not like digging roads."

Larry says he won't retire so long as his voice holds up. "I just do my job, I don't think about it. You get off the plane and it still amazes me that people are running after me looking for an autograph. But I love people, so I don't mind." Such a legend.

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# No Ho Ho

MANY FAMILIES GET REALLY STRESSED OUT at Christmas for loads of reasons. There can be financial concerns or rifts within the family. Or maybe the family is split and a decision about who to spend Christmas with has to be made.

Christmas time can also pose a threat concerning violence or drink. Other families don't spend much time together throughout the year and they find it hard to cope when they're all thrown together at Christmas. Or perhaps you are an asylum seeker or a foreign national who lives here but who will be spending Christmas away from your homeland and family.

Below is a survival guide for Christmas that you may find helpful when trying to cope with some of the scenarios above:

## SPENDING CHRISTMAS WITH FAMILY:

The Christmas holidays can be a happy time or a stressful and lonely time. It is important for you to prepare and try and not be alone for long periods. If you feel that you would like to talk to someone please contact the counseling service at 4023352 or the Samaritans (open throughout the holiday period) at 1850 609090.

- **Drink in moderation:** Alcohol tends to amplify how you're feeling; and it can cloud your judgment.
- **One golden rule to getting along with family - be responsible for how you behave, because you certainly have no control over how your relatives act.** The most important part of avoiding holiday stress with our families is for each of us to feel control over our own behaviors, attitudes and feelings. If you know in your head and your heart that you've acted the best that you can you can walk away from any difficulty feeling good about yourself.
- **Don't expect people to change.** Maybe they will, but your best course of action is to take them at face value and build whatever relationship you can based on that. If you need to, take some time away from your family, maybe a long walk.
- **If you are going to a place which holds unpleasant memories take something with you that holds pleasant feelings for you.** Something like photos of your friends or partner can be really helpful. Stay in touch with people over the festive period who help you to feel good about yourself. Remember Christmas only lasts a week or so!
- **Talk with your partner or a close friend about how you are feeling.** Sharing feelings usually helps us process them and let go of them.



## SPENDING CHRISTMAS ALONE:

See if there are others that you know who are in the same situation this Christmas, you can all arrange to get together and spend the holidays together.

- **If you have family abroad that you can contact - pick up the phone.** Talk to them and feel part of something, it's the sense of isolation that can leave us feeling low.
- **If you're feeling depressed and lonely, volunteer with any of a number of groups that help.** It's better to be around other people when we feel down than to be on our own. Also helping others is a great way of distracting ourselves away from our own problems.
- **Remember, no matter what your plans, the holidays do not automatically take away feelings of loneliness, sadness, frustration, anger, and fear.** In fact holidays like Christmas can exacerbate our feelings of loneliness and sadness. Make sure to seek support from someone who is there to listen. Talking does help.
- **Give yourself a break.** Create time for yourself to do the things YOU love to do.
- **Do not turn to alcohol or food for comfort.** These do not fulfill our needs, they only fill a gap.



## Help A Friend Campaign

The DIT Student Counselling and Health Services are pleased to notify all DIT Students about the Help a Friend campaign that will take place in the main DIT sites on December 11. This campaign will provide direction and practical strategies to students who want to learn how to recognize, care and get the right help for a friend who may be depressed or experiencing food issues.

The campaign has drawn upon input from a wide variety of sources but mostly from students who designed the graphics for the postcards, screensavers and posters. Congratulations to our winners, who were Fiona Cashell for her design on 'Mental Health can affect us all, support is always available'. Andrew McCann for his design on 'Happiness is not a destination, it's a way to travel' and Laura Farrelly for her design on 'exam stress, the stress busting tips'.

You can pick up these postcards on campus from December 11.



# HOW TO HAVE A GREEN XMAS

ENVIRONMENT  
MILES NEWMAN

**L**IVING A GREENER LIFE ISN'T just better for the environment; it's better for your wallet too. Miles Newman, of the Bolton Street Environmental Society, looks at how a few simple measures can help save the planet. And keep Al Gore happy at the same time.

## WASTE/WATER

- Recycle using green bins, local recycling brings, and recycling centres (reduces cost of waste disposal).
- On average 33% of all kitchen waste can be composted successfully. So give it a go and save.
- Fill a 500ml plastic drinks bottle with water, secure the cap, and place it in the cistern of the toilet, this will save water every flush without affecting flush effectiveness in most cases.
- Take a shower instead of a bath. A typical shower uses only one fifth of the energy and one third the water of a full bath.

## FOOD

- Avoid buying products with excessive packaging. This means you pay for the packaging twice; once when you buy it and again to get rid of it.
- Check the country of origin of foodstuffs and buy Irish if possible (this reduces the energy cost of transport from around the world).
- Try the markets; they have fresh seasonal fruit and vegetables, often at a better price than supermarkets.
- As mentioned before, composting is a very effective way of reducing waste.

## IN COLLEGE

- Bring your own reusable bottle for water to college and avail of free, cold, filtered water in the canteen. This costs nothing and stops the increasing build up of plastic bottles.
- Use the recycling facilities and dispose of waste correctly!
- Get rid of sandwich wrappings. There's no need for bag in a bag if you are going to eat it straight away.
- Walking and cycling are great ways to get to and from college and are also good for you.
- Read free newspapers and journals in the library or on the Internet, instead of buying them every time.

## COMPUTER USE

- Think before you print! Print and photocopy as little as possible, you can save information on your student drive or memory stick instead of printing on paper.
- Edit on screen before you print, not after.

- When you have to print, do it double-sided.
- Use e-mail to minimise paper use and don't routinely print e-mails.


## GREEN COLLEGE?

The 'greening' of academic institutions is nothing new; colleges around the world have been doing it for years. It can be as simple as introducing recycling facilities or be as fundamental as enforced policy. It may be necessary to look at a college as more of a business or industry, where regulations are firm, then an actual educational centre. Through the transformation of the raw material to finished product (student to

graduate); office buildings, energy and heating, food services, waste (municipal and hazardous), construction, and health care is incorporated.

There is currently no certification programme or generally accepted definition for what a 'green' college is. However, there is for primary education centres, the 'Green Schools' programme, developed by An Taisce. Policy-making really is up to the institute itself, which mean students can play a significant role in making their college environmentally friendly.

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RATHER NOT  
LET EVERYONE  
KNOW,  
TALK  
TOWS.**

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# Reviews

☆☆☆☆☆ TERRIBLE  
 ★☆☆☆☆ POOR  
 ★★☆☆☆ AVERAGE

★★★★☆ GOOD  
 ★★★★★ EXCELLENT  
 ★★★★★ UNMISSABLE

## The Cake Sale



### The Cake Sale The Cake Sale

By: Sarah Doyle

★★★★★

The Cake Sale is a tasty little album cooked up for charity by Bell XI's Brian Crosby and friends. Crosby says he "wanted to do something positive", so he set about rounding up some musicians (also collectively known as The Cake Sale) for the task. The result is a neat nine-song CD with all proceeds going to Oxfam.

Artists such as Nina Persson of the Cardigans, Gary Lightbody of Snow Patrol and Glen Hansard sing beautifully crafted songs written by Damien Rice, Emm Gryner, and, well, Gary Lightbody and Glen Hansard. The album delivers quality throughout; a perfect collection for fans of thought-provoking lyrics matched with layered melodies.

Beginning softly with Lisa Hannigan breathing life into Dave Gahan's Last Leaf, The Cake Sale moves gently between moods and rhythms with impressive names like Josh Ritter picking up the tempo in Vapour Trail. The final track is the magical Aliens, featuring the familiar voice of Neil Hannon. It is a thoughtful arrangement of work, and given the mix and match of names appearing and reappearing in the credits, the sense that this really was a genuine team effort abounds. A worthy cause, and an admirable album.

### Opeth Vicar Street

By: Lisa Hughes

★★★★★

Tonight's support act Paradise Lost are a band with a cult following, precisely because they have the kind of sound you either love or hate. A cluster of hardcore fans welcomes them onstage warmly, and are repaid with an intimate and solid performance.

But for the majority, PL's set list drifted over the assembled heads or was simply a faint hum from the bar. Which is a pity because despite the tendency to be MOR in the later material, PL offer a consistent and occasionally unique live show.

Beginning what would be a 1 hour 40 minute show with the explosive Ghost of Perdition, Opeth played a selection of tracks spanning their extensive back catalogue. When not unleashing death metal growls, Mikael Åkerfeldt has a flawless vocal range, complemented by the drumming and lead guitars that make the band come alive. In between tracks, the band win brownie points for crowd interaction, including a game of Name the Metal Riff.

With songs over ten minutes long you could be excused for thinking Opeth are pretentious or even boring. But then again, if you think that, in the words of Mikael Åkerfeldt, you're not metal anyway.



### Casino Royale (16)

By: Kevin Byrne

★★★★★

First things first: Daniel Craig is the best Bond since Connery, and Casino Royale is the best Bond movie of the past ten years. It's a modern but pleasantly faithful adaptation of Ian Fleming's first James Bond novel.

Craig plays a young 007 who travels to Montenegro with a female accountant, played by Eva Green, to play a high-stakes game of Texas Hold 'Em.

But it's not just any game of cards; the aim is to defeat a notorious terrorist banker, Le Chiffre (Mads Mikkelsen), and offer him sanctuary in return for information.

Casino Royale rewards die-hard Bond fans with realism and a new James Bond that's faithful to the ruthless spy that Fleming created. The action scenes in Casino Royale are more realistic than recent films in the series, with James Bond actually getting hurt.

Fans of the Fleming novels will be thrilled by the cold-heartedness of Craig's portrayal, though the film retains the Bond sense of humour.

But the main selling point of the movie has to be Craig. From the moment he makes his first punch and takes his first shot, you realise he is Bond.



### Gnarls Barkley Vicar Street

By: Niall Farrell

★★★★

In the past Gnarls Barkley have played live gigs dressed as characters from Star Wars and Austin Powers, and tonight they arrive on stage in 1980s Hair Metal outfits, and aptly launch straight into Welcome to the Jungle by Guns 'n' Roses.

The live show sees the duo joined by a further 10 members including a string quartet and backing singers. It all serves to add further texture and colour to their sound.

With the entire album St. Elsewhere given an airing, the band is forced to rely on covers of The Doors and Jimi Hendrix in order to fill out their set. Even Cee-Lo's between song banter is stretched in order to eat into the time and this, added to a rather subdued audience (certainly one of the oldest I've seen at a gig), means the show never quite gets going.

Crazy predictably receives the biggest cheer of the night before the band return for an encore that itself is a little longer than normal.

The band deliver a solid performance but the gig itself is far from memorable. Adding to my disappointment were the posters around the venue reminding me that I'd paid almost 50 quid for it. Crazy.



# Saved by the Bell X1

A NATIONWIDE TOUR, a best-selling third album and a benefit CD featuring some of the biggest names in Irish music – it's no wonder Bell X1 barely have time to bake a cake. So Brian Crosby, the band's keyboardist, roped in a few of the band's musician friends to help out.

All the proceeds from charity album *The Cake Sale* are going to Oxfam, with the boys having travelled over to Africa to see the organisation at work. The album's not your average saccharine sweet charity offering though, and according to Brian that's what makes it more of a musical treat. "Our primary motivation was to record a really great album. Not to cut any corners. We didn't want to sell it on the charity ticket alone."

Back to the day job though, and Bell X1's Irish tour kicked off in Belfast's Mandela Arena on November 22, where they enjoyed a "truly triumphant



opening night" in Brian's words. The tour culminated in the recent show at The Point, and I caught up with Brian a few days before that. At that stage those close to the band were just as excited as the most fervent of the band's fans. "I think our mothers are getting more excited than us. For them it's right up there with the time we appeared on the *Late Late Show* a few years ago. They're getting their hair done for the night and

everything." 2007 may hold more trips to the hairdresser for the proud mothers. The band plans to tour with their current album *Flock* over the next 12 months and North America is mentioned as a prime touring ground. Brian doesn't doubt the exposure Bell X1 received from having two tracks feature on the hit TV show *The OC* can only help in the notoriously tough US market.



With the season that's in it, I couldn't resist asking the predictable question about New Year's resolutions. Brian didn't really rise to the bait though, admitting he doesn't believe in resolutions at any specific time of the year.

"Anytime is the right time to do something if you put your mind to it." Bless, his mother has every reason to be proud.

## Mobile instant messaging has arrived



Legend! can't believe  
Did you hear that?  
The banter was magic  
He said  
What's Santa bringing for Christmas?  
The banter was magic  
He said  
She's off to the slopes next week  
Will I book those tickets?  
I'll be there til I tell you  
Did you hear that...? He said

[www.o2.ie](http://www.o2.ie)

O<sub>2</sub>

Windows Live Messenger is available on all Windows Mobile devices. A subscription of £12.49 needs to be activated. Windows Live Messenger terms and conditions apply. Windows Live is either a registered trademark or trademark of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and other countries.





## WILL YOU KICK ASSESSMENTS?

**WELL GUYS IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN. CREDIT CARDS ARE GOING TO BE MAXED OUT FOR CHRISTMAS, YOU STILL HAVEN'T FOUND THE GYM IN KEVIN STREET, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY YOU'VE NOW REALISED THAT YOUR SEMESTER ONE EXAMS AND ASSESSMENT DEADLINES ARE A LOT CLOSER THAN YOU THOUGHT.**

### UNION NEWS

### STUDENT AFFAIRS DEPT

IT'S ALSO THAT TIME OF YEAR when your Students' Union runs its exams and assessments information campaign in order to ensure you know what the rules on assessments are, and what your rights are. The campaign was first piloted in 2005 and was so successful it was agreed to run the campaign each year.

This year with most programmes modularised and operating through the semesterised calendar the Students' Union have added an extra dimension to the campaign aimed at encouraging students to be more proactive in getting information about their exams and assessments.

Students' Union Vice President Hamidreza Khodabakhshi spoke about the thinking

behind the campaign: "Since DIT introduced modularisation and the semesterised calendar two years ago most students adapted well to the new structures. The process has been relatively smooth although there have been a few notable teething problems that have caused difficulties for students on some courses which we have addressed to have raised at Academic Council and elsewhere."

"The biggest difficulty seems to be a lack of information about some of the basics. We are finding many of the same problems and queries reoccurring across the Institute that can be very easily resolved, but students don't know where to find the answers. This campaign is aimed at addressing those gaps and to encourage students to find the answers to these questions before taking their exams or assessments.

Some of the questions we get asked frequently are:

- Can I be penalised for handing in a project/assignment late?
- What is compensation?
- What happens if I don't attend all my classes?
- When do I get my semester 1 results?
- What happens if personal issues are affecting my life and assessments?
- What happens if I'm sick the day of an exam?

The fact is the answers to all of these questions are readily available if you know where to look, and that's what this campaign will help you with."

Director of Academic Affairs Mary Scally says

that being informed about key aspects of your assessments and exams (such as percentage marks available and how they are distributed etc) before taking them takes a huge amount of pressure off students.

"If you know where you stand in relation to your existing marks before your semester exams, it can prepare you for them. For the sake of a quick trip to a library or checking some information in your Programme Handbook or on the DIT website, it could mean the difference of passing your module first time" she added.

So when the campaign launches this month, try and take two minutes to check out some of the info available or collect an information leaflet or log onto [www.ditsu.ie](http://www.ditsu.ie). Preparation is the key to success.

Any queries should be directed to Hamid (086 6031075 / [vpacademic@ditsu.ie](mailto:vpacademic@ditsu.ie)) or Mary (086 8151471 / [academicaffairs@ditsu.ie](mailto:academicaffairs@ditsu.ie))







UNION NEWS

CHIEF OPERATIONS DEPT



IT COULD BE YOU!

Ever wondered how the SU elected officers (sabbaticals) get elected and what the process involves? The sabbatical officers are elected by you, the students of the DIT, in the annual Students' Union elections in March each year.

As a registered student of DIT you are automatically entitled to vote in our annual elections. You don't have to do anything except turn up and make your choice. Ballot boxes will be on each site.

All elected officers are students just like you. Any registered student can run for election to one of our three full time elected officer positions. Are you

interested in running for one of the three positions?

These are President, Vice President (Service & Trading) and Vice President (Student & Academic Affairs). The terms of office for these positions runs from July 1 (of the year in which you are elected) to June 30 the following year, and it is a paid position. If you want to you can run for a second year.

The experience you gain as a sabbatical officer is second to none, and no other job can offer you such a wide variety of challenges, which will enhance your skills and personal development for the future.

The role of President, for example, involves sitting as a director on two companies, sitting on the Governing Body of the college, dealing with political representatives, overseeing a budget of over €1 million and at the same time dealing with all the problems students face on the ground at DIT level, and strategically planning solutions to these problems. This is experience you would not get in ten years in industry; it really is incomparable with any job that you will walk into as a graduate.

In order to prepare each officer for the tasks ahead, the DIT Students' Union ensures that all officers receive comprehensive

training. The main role of elected officers is to represent and defend the interests of the students in the DIT. The role is fully supported by full-time staff who provide experience and continuity and help in dealing with the many issues that arise during the term of office.

If you like the sound of the challenges that these roles present and the opportunities available, drop into your local Students' Union office, or contact any of the current elected officers and have a chat. All contact details for the Students' Union are on our website at [www.ditsu.ie](http://www.ditsu.ie).

Remember if you don't want to run for election yourself please take time to see who is running for the various positions and then vote on the day. If you don't vote you can't complain if the job is not being done or being done badly. Don't lose your voice - use your vote!

## DIT Hurlers defeat NUIG



DIT's hurlers got this year's campaign off to a disappointing start with a nine-point drubbing at the hands of UCD in Belfield in early October. But since then they've remained unbeaten, thanks in no small part to mentors Damien McDonald, Gerry Tully and Austin Larkin.

DIT's win over NUIG was particularly inspiring as DIT were the only team to beat them in the league. The game started off at an electric pace with some outstanding points being traded by both sides. Corner forward Kevin O' Reilly kept DIT in touch with two great scores from placed balls. Captain Eddie Connolly also played his part by landing two

points from distance. NUIG soon raced ahead after scoring an opportunist goal which left them four points to the good.

But substitute Niall Kelly capitalised on some poor defending to hit the sliotar first time into the net. Kelly had the ball in the net again minutes later after some fine approach play from Eamonn Clarke. The Galway men then tagged on two points from frees late in the half to reduce the deficit at half time. The interval score line read DIT 2-6, NUIG 1-7.

Dublin senior star Kevin O' Reilly opened the second half scoring with a magnificent sideline cut from the left wing. Connolly then landed another score after a fine movement which begun in the fullback line. NUIG soon began to make their quality count on the scoreboard with three consecutive points to leave just a point between the sides. This was to be as close as the Tribesmen were to get as Reilly scored two further frees and Kelly bagged his hat-trick after a long clearance from defence by Willie Lyons.

Reilly then added a further two points including another superb sideline cut to ultimately end the game as a contest. Although NUIG added a goal and a point towards injury time it proved to be mere consolation as DIT held out for a morale boosting victory. The final score read DIT 3-12 NUIG 2-11. Next up is a quarter final match against Limerick IT.

### PLAYER PROFILE

**Name:** John Coughlan

**Date of Birth:** 11/09/1985

**Best memory of playing football/hurling:** Winning Leinster Senior Intercounty Championship in 2005

**Favourite match ever played:** Minor All-Ireland semi final vs Cork in 2003

**Toughest opponent:** Ciaran Whelan

**Best player you've ever seen:** Paul Curran

**Most annoying team mate:** Damien Munnley - he never stops moaning

**Greatest fear:** Getting seriously injured.

**Greatest inspiration:** 1995 All-Ireland winning Dublin team

**If I had three wishes, I would wish for:** Money, health, to win an All-Ireland

**If there was a film made about your life, which actor would you want playing you:** Chuck Norris

**Three people you would invite for dinner:** Borat, Dave Chappelle, Roy Keane

**What would you spend your last €20 on:** I'd bet on a horse, try and win more.

**Favourite sport other than football/hurling:** Women's Volleyball

**Opening Croke Park up to other sports, in favour or not:** Yes





Seamus was delighted with his new coldsore



Jacinta didn't realise she couldn't get into the Clockwork Orange team due to her massive lip.



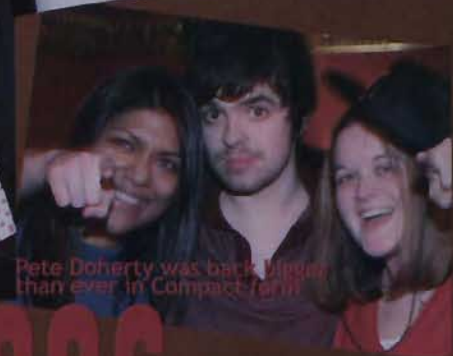
The girls could only afford one Cowboy Santa hat!



Pam's five sisters were on the pull all night.

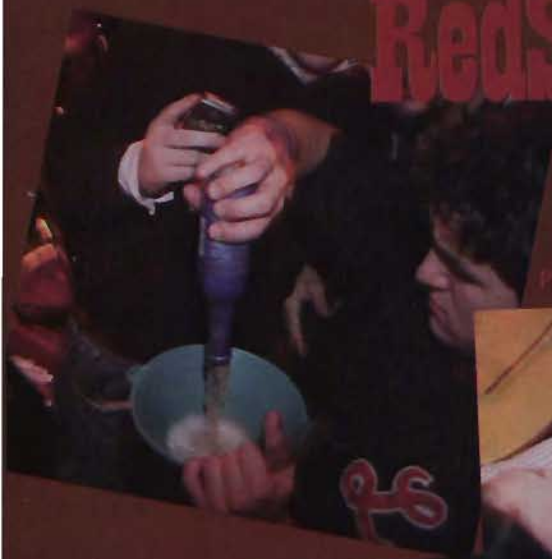


'Letus' oral sex didn't live up to the blond dalmations expectations



Pete Doherty was back bigger than ever in Compact form

# RedSoc Rodeo 2006



Put your lips around that, good girl.



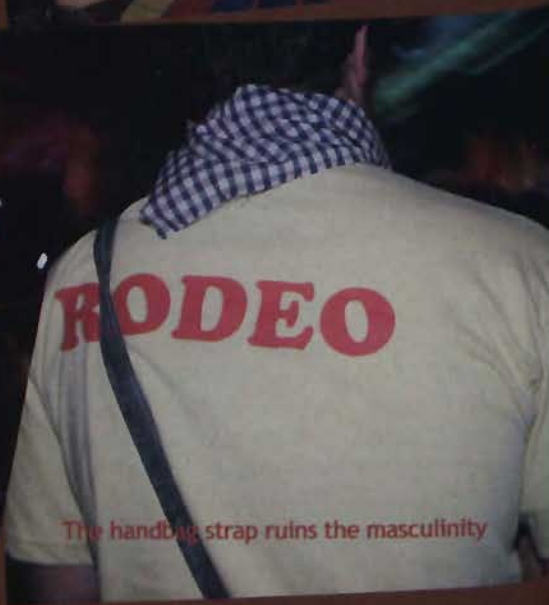
The All Saints noticed one of them wasn't pulling in the effort anymore.



Roddy's mother made sure no one ever stain his clothes.



I'll probably end up presenting the weather on TG4



The handbag strap ruins the masculinity





The Aungier St. bird spotted a camera at 100 yards, activating the "Auto-Pose" reaction.



Hamish needed help with his trousers.



Not having a Tradfest T-Shirt meant Tommy was excluded from group hugs.

# TRAD FEST



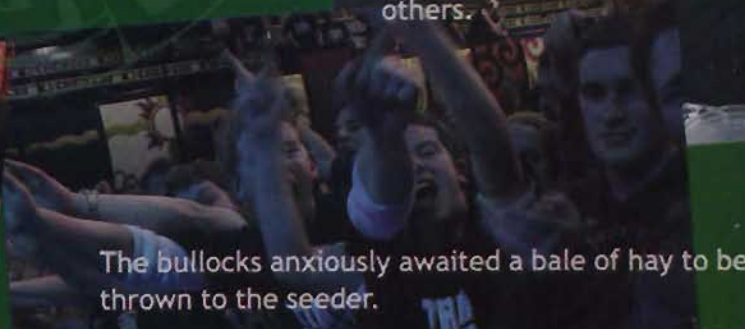
Gertie's "Bent Neck" made group photos awkward for others.



The lads were delighted to be OUT!



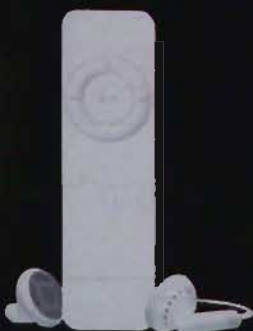
Young Healy-Rae had lost his saxophone



The bullocks anxiously awaited a bale of hay to be thrown to the seeder.

If you are the person circled, you have won an iPod Shuffle! Contact [compact@ditsu.ie](mailto:compact@ditsu.ie) for your prize!

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## EVENT MANAGEMENT SOC

Name: EMP SOCIETY

Number of Members: 157

**Aim of Society:** To promote the social interaction of students in DIT by arranging events, raising funds for charity, and giving event management students a chance to get experience in their field. To bring sexy back.

**Society Activities:** Casino Royale featuring The Blizzards, Rubber Ducked feat Dance Pig, Battle of the Socs 2006, Amsterdam 2006, Galway 2005. Republic of Loose coming soon.

**Biggest Accomplishment:**  
Casino Royale: we raised €2000 for Can-Teen, the Irish children's cancer charity

**Biggest Disaster:**  
None so far, thank God.

**If money wasn't an object, what event would your society hold:**  
Bring all DIT students to the Bahamas for a massive beach party.

**If you could get three famous people to join your society who would they be:**  
Sean Connery because he's so cool, Justin Timberlake to help bring sexy back, Babs Bunny for the same reason.

**Favourite other society and why?:**  
Gig Soc, started off small like us but are gonna do big things in the future.

SOCIETY FACTFILE



## Societies go head to head

It's society versus society in DIT's first ever Battle of the Socs. On December 4 in the Laughter Lounge watch the society elite battle it out for the prestigious honour of winning the inaugural Battle of the Socs trophy as well as some other fantastic items. The night will feature juggling acts, DJs, break-dancing, a chocolate eating contest and raffles. Prizes including iPod nanos will be up for grabs, and at the end of the night all proceeds go to Crumlin Childrens Hospital.

It's sure to be an evening to remember as the event managers are pulling out all the stops to make this an annual event in the DIT calendar. The MC for the night is DIT's very own Students' Union President Bob Coggins, who kicks things off at 8:30 pm. For the very reasonable price of €4 you can find yourself sitting front row of what's set to be a great event that will give the societies involved the chance to showcase their abilities. So, come down, support charity and give it Socs!

## DIT gamers host intervarsity

SOCIETY NEWS

KEITH DOUGLAS

DIT'S NET SOC RECENTLY ORGANISED an Intervarsity Gaming Event, Interlan, which saw some of Ireland's best student gamers come together to represent their colleges. Two months of planning resulted in fun, games, and everyone having a good laugh.

There's a lot of planning that goes into an event like this. It all started out on Friday afternoon with the generator, tables and chairs arriving on-site at 3pm, the next step was then to transport everything required to the event, this took a lot of lifting and a Transit van stacked full of equipment. We then worked until the early hours setting up tables, chairs, electrical, networking and servers... not leaving until about 4am.

The following morning we arrived at 10am to finish off the last minor details of the setup and get everything going for the opening of the event at 2pm. The first of our anxious competitors started arriving early from 1pm with the stragglers arriving later, some drift-

ing in in the early hours of the morning. There were seven competitions in total on the night, and DIT were well represented with our team winning two team competitions, and a second place in one of the individual competitions. Also congratulations to DCU's Gaming Soc, which helped organise the event and who came first in one of the team competitions, as well as two first-places and a second in individual games. IT Carlow were also well represented with two full teams managing to achieve the top two places in the same competition. There were lots of prizes given away for the winners of the competitions ranging from Alienware T-shirts and mouse pads, SteelSeries Gaming equipment, the latest top selling games, vouchers and surround sound speaker sets. Thanks to everyone who took part.

Special thanks to rest of the DIT NetSoc committee, the lads from DCU Gamesoc, everyone that helped out with the setup, DIT Societies office, everyone who came along and our sponsors: marxcomputers.ie, Alienware, SteelSeries, Game, Domino's Pizza.



What's your society up to?  
Let us know at  
[compact@ditsu.ie](mailto:compact@ditsu.ie)





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